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THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE *COMMONS* OF KENT,

Agreed upon at their Generall ASSIZES.

Presented to His MAJESTIE the first of August, 1642.

With certain Instructions from the County of Kent, to Mr. *Augustine Skinner*, whereby the Desires of the said County may be presented by him, to the Honourable House of *Commons*.

With His MAJESTIES Answer to the aforesaid Petition.

At the Court at *York*, this fourth of *August*, 1642.

YORK:
Printed by ROBERT BARKER, Printer to the Kings most Excellent Majesty: And by the Assignes of JOHN BILL, 1642.

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To the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſtie.

The Humble Petition of the Commons of *Kent*, Agreed upon at their Generall ASSIZES.

Moſt gracious Soveraign,

E do, with all thankfulneſſe, acknowledge Your great Grace and favour towards us, and the whole Kingdom; In paſſing many good Laws for the benefit of Your Subjects, In promiſing to eaſe us of all our grievances; And graciouſly inviting Us by Your Letter directed to the Judge of Our Aſſize, full of Love and Care for Your Peoples good, to Petition for redreſſe of them, promiſing a gracious Anſwer; And we ſhould with all humility have preſented them to Your Majeſty at this time, did not the preſent great diſtractions and apprehenſion of a Civill War (which we earneſtly pray to God to divert) put us beyond all thought of other grievances. For prevention whereof, we have with all Loyalty of Heart to Your Sacred Majeſty, with all Love and Faithfulneſſe to our Country, preſented

our humble Advice in certain Inſtructions, to one of our Knights of the Shire now here preſent with a Committee from the Houſe of Commons, to be preſented by him to that Honourable Houſe: The Copy whereof we make bold to annex unto this Petition.

Moſt humbly deſiring Your Moſt Excellent Majeſtie, That if it ſhall pleaſe the Houſes of *Parliament* to ſatisfie Your Majeſties juſt deſires in theſe particulars, That then Your Majeſty would be graciouſly pleaſed, to lay down Your extraordinary Guards, and cheerfully meet Your *Parliament*, in ſuch a place where Your Sacred Majeſty and each Member of both Houſes, may be free from tumultuary Aſſemblies.

And as in all Duty bound, we ſhall dayly Pray for Your Majeſties long Life, and proſperous Reign over us.

Inſtructions

Inſtructions from the County of *Kent*, to Maſter *Auguſtine Skinner*, whereby the deſires of the ſaid County may be preſented by him to the Honorable Houſe of COMMONS.

WHereas a Committee from the Houſe of Commons is now ſent down to the Aſſizes, upon a credible Information (as they ſay) that ſomething ſhould be done to the Diſturbance of the Peace of this County. We, the Commons of Kent, require you Maſter Auguſtine Skinner (as our Servant) to certifie to that Honourable Houſe, That you found the County in full Peace, and that there is no ground for any ſuch Information, and that you deſire, in our Names, to know the particulars of that Information, (of which it ſeems you are ignorant, and the Informer) that this County may have full reparations in Honour againſt ſo ſcandalous an aſperſion caſt upon them; and that the Informer, of what quality ſoever, may receive condigne puniſhment. And that the Houſe of Commons may underſtand our deſires, not only to preſerve the Peace of this County, which (with Gods bleſſing, and the help of the good known Laws of this Kingdome) we are confident we ſhall maintain, but alſo of the whole Kingdome, being now in ſo great a diſtraction, that every Man ſtands at a gaze, to ſee what the event is likely

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1642

ly to be, and well weighing what a great fire a small spark may kindle; abhorring and detesting the thought of a Civill War: we farther require you to offer our humble advice, as Faithfull and Loyall Subjects to His Majesty, and good Patriots and Lovers of our Countrey, for setling the Distractions of these times. One principall meanes to effect it, we conceive will be to give His Majesty full satisfaction in His Just Desires, in these foure Particulars.

1. In presently leaving the Town of *Hull* in the same State it was before Sir *John Hothams* entrance into it; And delivering His Majesty His own Magazine.

2. In laying aside the *Militia*, untill a good Law may be framed, wherein care may be taken as well for the Liberty of the Subjects, as the Defence of the Kingdom.

3. That the Parliament be adjourned to an indifferent place, where His Sacred Majesty, all the Lords and Members of Your House of Commons may meet and treat with Honour, Freedom, and Safety.

4. That His Majesties Navie may be immediately restored to him.

Our Reasons are these.

1. *For withdrawing your Garrison out of the Town of* Hull, *we are perswaded your fears and Jealousies of forraign forces, of French, or Danes, or of the Papists at home (an inconsiderable Party, especially being disarmed) are long since vanished, the Magazine or a great part of it being removed to London, we conceive Master Major of* Hull *may safely keep the Town as before.*

2. *For*

2. *For laying aside the* Militia, *we are free from Jealousies of Forraign Forces, so that you may have time enough to frame a lasting Law, which notwithstanding, for feare of Inconvenience to the Subjects Liberty, you may, if you so think fit, make the Law a Probationer. Besides, His Majesty, if occasion should be, is vested with sufficient power to raise forces for the Defence of the Kingdom, for which onely we are confident His Majesty will employ them. And we should hold our selves worse then Infidels, if, after so many Protestations to maintain the True Religion by Law established, the Subjects in the Liberty of their Persons and Propriety of their Goods, and the Priviledges of Parliament, and that He will Govern us by the known Laws of the Land, we should not with full assurance, beleeve in Him and confide in Him.*

3. *For adjourning the Parliament to another place, His Majesty hath expressed the Reasons, That He was driven away by tumultuary Assemblies, and that he cannot return thither with Honour and Safety: And divers of the Lords are absent, who promise to return back to the House, when they may sit with the Liberty, and that condition that the Peerage of* England *formerly have done, secured from all menaces, or demanding any Account of their particular Votes; which we conceive to be against the Freedom of Parliament, which by our Protestation we must maintain, and from tumultuarie Assemblies: These having been the Occasions, as we beleeve, that of neer five hundred in the House of Commons, there are but about one hundred and forty left to sit there, and the greater part of the Lords gone away.*

4. *For the Restitution of the Navie, our Reason is, That the Neighbour Nations do take notice, that His Majesties Navie is detained from him, which if not suddenly restored,*

reſtored, may turn to His Majeſties diſhonour, whoſe honour, by our Proteſtation, we are bound to maintain.

Another meane, we conceive, to ſettle the States and Minds of the Subjects, is a free, generall, and large pardon: which ſince His Majeſty hath ſo graciouſly offered we deſire and expect to receive, and if any Man do diſlike it, he may be excepted, and the generality of the Subjects not hindred of their good, and His Majeſties Grace and Goodneſſe.

His

His Majesties Answer to the humble Petition of the Commons of Kent, *agreed upon at their generall Assizes, and presented to His Majesty the first of* August.

At the Court at York *this fourth of* August, 1642.

HIS Majestie hath with great satisfaction in the Loyalty and affection of the Petitioners considered this Petition, with the Instructions annexed to their Knight of the Shire, and hath expresly commanded me to return this His Answer, in these Words:

That the Petitioners are not more eased and satisfied with the good Laws His Majestie hath passed, then His Majestie himselfe is pleased with that way of obliging His Subjects, neither hath He ever made the least Promise or profession of repairing or redressing the grievances of His People, which he hath not been, and alwaies wil be ready to perform.

His Majestie cannot blame the Petitioners

to be apprehenſive of a civill War, ſince the preſent diſtractions (grounded upon no viſible cauſe, to which His Majeſtie could, or can yet applie a remedy) threaten no leſſe confuſion. But His Majeſtie doubts not, that the Petitioners and all His good Subjects, do well underſtand, That His Majeſtie hath left no way unattempted, which in Honour or Wiſdom could be conſented to, to prevent that confuſion.

That after ſo many Injuries and Indignities offered to Him, ſo many combinations and conſpiracies againſt Him, He departed ſo much from His own Majeſtie, and the Juſtice due to it, That He required no other reparation, then to have His Town, Goods, and Navie (taken and kept by violence from and againſt Him) to be reſtored to Him: The power of making Laws without Him, by the way of Ordinances (and that in particular, concerning the *Militia*) to be diſavowed. And that a ſafe Place might be agreed on, where He might be preſent with His great Councell, for the compoſing all miſunderſtandings, and making the Kingdom happy.

That before any Anſwer returned to His Majeſtie (whil'ſt with all patience and hope His Majeſtie forbore any action or attempt of force,

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1647

according to His promiſe) Sir *John Hotham* iſſued out of *Hull* in the Night, burned the Houſes, and murthered the Perſons of his fellow Subjects (though He knew His Majeſtie quietly expected an Anſwer to His reaſonable and neceſſary demands) and hath ſince exerciſed moſt barbarous cruelty upon a Drummer then taken Priſoner by him.

That thoſe Propoſitions made by His Majeſtie, and mentioned by the Petitioners, in their Inſtructions, are diſſented from, and His Majeſtie not ſuffered to enjoy what is as unqueſtionably His own, as any thing His Subjects can call moſt theirs, upon pretence there is ſome truſt on foot to diſpoſſeſſe His Majeſtie of them: Whether any ſuch truſt be derived from the Petitioners: Themſelves beſt know.

That a Generall is made to command His Subjects againſt Him, and Forces already marching with Canon towards Him, under the conduct of the Lord *Brook*, whil'ſt all Labour and Endeavour is uſed, to cut off all Succour and Supply from His Majeſty, as from a Forraign Enemy.

When the Petitioners, and all other His Majeſties Subjects have weighed this, and conſidered

that these strange unheard of proceedings must be the effects of desperate Resolutions, and that all this calamity is brought upon this Nation, to wrest from His Majestie His Just Rights, when no sober man can see the want of any thing which is in His Majesties power to grant, and necessary for the peace and full happinesse of the Kingdom.

That when all encouragement is given, scandals raised, and provocations used to incense the People against His Majesty, and to publish Petitions and Declarations against the known Laws and established Government: The Petitioners, and all other His Majesties good Subjects (who out of a true sense of the distraction and ruine the Commonwealth must speedily fall into through these distempers have prepared sober and moderate Petitions and Animadversions for the peace of the Kingdom) have been discountenanced, censured and imprisoned in a Lawlesse Arbitrary way, when no offence have been committed by them, of which the Law hath taken notice: That all their Rights, Interests, and Priviledges, which they were born to, by the good known Lawes, are taken

taken from them, or ſubjected to an unintelligible Arbitrary power and reſolution, which deſtroyes their confidence and aſſurance even in Innocencie it ſelf; They will think it time to provide for their own ſecurity, by Aſſiſting His Majeſtie for the defence of His Perſon, preſervation of the true Proteſtant Religion, and maintenance of the Law of the Land, and Liberty of the Subject; of the which, as the Petitioners care is very eminent, and deſerves all protection, thanks, and eſtimation from His Majeſty; So His Majeſty will venture His Life and His Crown with them, in that Quarrell.

Laſtly, leaſt any of the Petitioners may unjuſtly ſuffer for making or preſenting this humble, dutifull, and modeſt Petition to His Majeſtie; His Majeſtie Declares, That He will with His utmoſt power and aſſiſtance protect and defend them againſt any power whatſoever, which ſhall queſtion them for ſo doing; And to that purpoſe advertiſeth them, That they are not obliged to yeeld Obedience to any Purſuivants, Sergeants, or Meſſengers, who ſhall endeavour to moleſt them for doing their Duty, and diſcharging their Conſciences therein.

And

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And that the whole County of *Kent* may know His Majesties gracious acceptance of this expression of their Duty and affection unto Him: 'Tis His Majesties pleasure, that this His Answer, together with the Petition and Instructions, be Read in all the Churches and Chappels of that County.

Falkland.

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